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RECENT LITERATURE.

Mrs. Wright's 'The Friendship of Nature.'—Although not a 'bird book' in a strictly ornithological sense, Mrs. Wright's 'The Friendship of Nature'[1], as its subtitle—'A New England Chronicle of Birds and Flowers'—indicates, deals with birds to a sufficient extent to warrant reference to her charming book in the pages of 'The Auk.' If no new facts in bird life are 'chronicled,' her frequent allusions to birds have a poetic setting and a background that render her book one of unusual literary merit and peculiarly fascinating to every lover of nature. The book consists of eleven chapters, nearly all for the first time here published. Some hint of the method of treatment may be gathered from the titles as follows: 'A New England May-Day'; 'When Orchards Bloom'; 'The Romaunt of the Rose'; 'The Garden of the Sea'; 'A Song of Summer'; 'Feathered Philosophers'; 'Nature's Calm'; 'The Story of a Garden'; 'Rustling Wings'; 'The Loom of Autumn'; 'A Winter Mood.'

The author easily takes first rank as a poet of nature, her book being truly a poem in prose. In general her allusions to the varied objects of nature, whether animals or plants, or things inanimate, are wonderfully truthful and show not only keen powers of observation but broad culture. The twelve illustrations are most happily chosen and exceedingly well reproduced in photogravure.[2] We consider that we do our readers a favor in calling attention to the intellectual treat the book offers to those in friendship with nature.—J. A. A.

Shufeldt's 'Comparative Oölogy of North American Birds.'[3] — In a paper of somewhat over 30 pages, Dr. Shufeldt attempts "to bring together what is already well known in regard to the oölogy of North American birds, placing it before the ornithologist in a more condensed form than it is usually given and in a comparative way." Much of this is 'placed' in the form of comparative tables, compiled mainly from Coues's 'Key' and Ridgway's 'Manual.' Much stress is here and there laid upon the "discrepancies" found in the descriptions of different authors

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[1] The Friendship | of Nature | A New England Chronicle of Birds | and Flowers | By | Mabel Osgood Wright | With Twelve Full-page Illustrations | from Photographs by the Author | New York | Macmillan and Company | and London | 1894 | All rights reserved.—8vo. pp. viii + 238. 12 photogravure illustrations.

[2] The work appears, however, in two editions, the smaller in ordinary 12mo. size, with merely a frontispiece. The larger, or 'large paper' edition, is limited, we believe, to 300 numbered copies.

[3] Comparative Oölogy of North American Birds. By R. W. Shufeldt. Rep. U. S. Nat. Mus. for 1892 (1894), pp. 461–493.